

# *Family Histories:*

*Past and Present Images in the Lives of  
Recent Hispanic Immigrants to  
Essex County, Massachusetts*

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Recent Hispanic Immigrants to  
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*Essex Institute  
Salem, Massachusetts*

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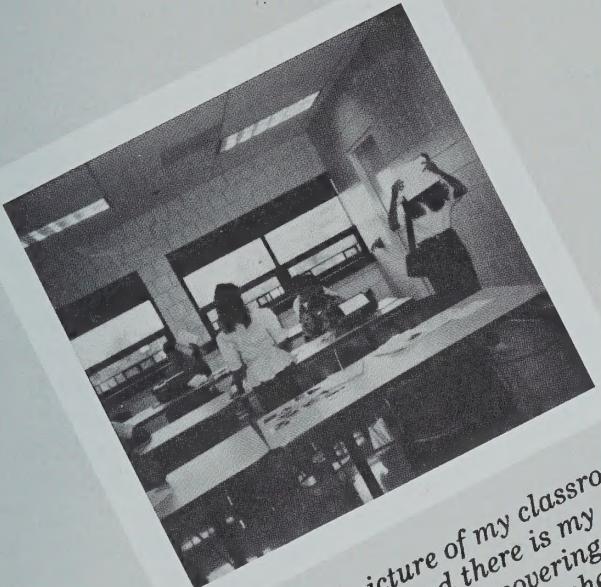
*Editor: Barbara McLean Ward  
Project Coordinator: Donald R. Daly  
Book Design: Laura Blacklow  
Pasteup and mechanicals: Liz Kelley*

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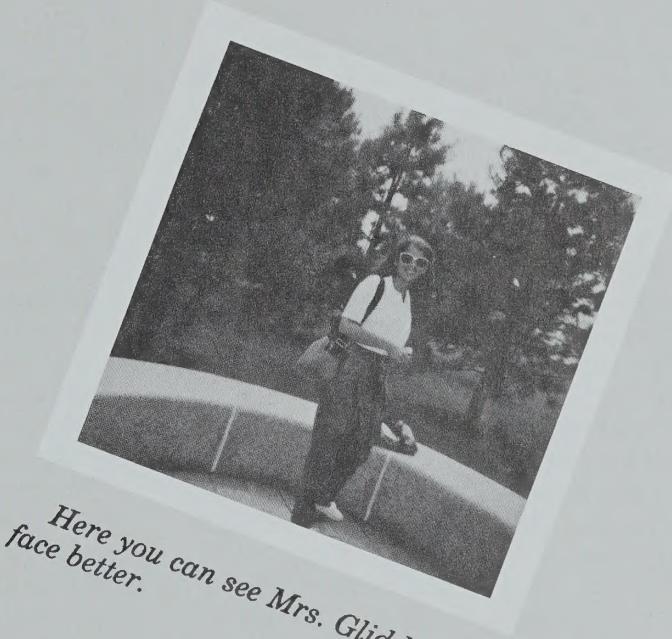
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# *dedication*



Here is a picture of my classroom as you can see, and there is my teacher Mrs. Glidden covering her face with a folder because she just didn't want to come out in the picture.

You can see that some of the students were typing their stuff and some of the students were writing and putting pictures in order. I think this is a great class and specially the teacher — she is great and she understands us a lot. She even gave us an idea of how to do this.



Here you can see Mrs. Glidden's face better.

R. G.

*Every era writes its own history. Ours is being lived and written by the students whose words appear on these pages. Like the thousands of new immigrants who have come to the United States before them, they have a special story to tell. It is a story of the richness of one culture blending with, and enriching, another. It is a story partly of hardship, dislocation, and bewilderment; it is also a story of triumph, joy, and celebration. We salute these young people for sharing their experiences with us and with posterity. Their stories and their pictures are eloquent reminders that American culture is borrowed from many sources and that we as a people derive our strength from the diversity of our backgrounds.*

*The following narratives were created as part of a cooperative program between the Essex Institute and the Lynn Public Schools that was funded by the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities and the Polaroid Foundation. Two groups of students participated in the program, one group as part of the English as a Second Language Program at Lynn English High School, the other group as part of a special summer school program sponsored by the Northshore Employment Training Summer Youth Program.*

*The Essex Institute exists for the purpose of collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history and culture of*

*Essex County. Its museum and library house extensive collections of local material that are presented to the public through exhibitions and publications. When we first began working with the students whose work is presented here, we talked with them about their place in history, and shared with them some of the documents, scrapbook, photo albums, and diaries, that are preserved in the Institute's library. We wanted them to understand that they, too, were making history, and that some day scholars would come to the Institute to study and write about the narratives that they would create as part of their class.*

*The students then had an opportunity to work closely with two photo artists, Laura Blacklow and Judith Sedwick. Laura explained how she had used old photographs to produce books and showed students examples of her own works. Judith taught the students the fundamentals of photography — choosing the subject, planning the composition, making sure the lighting is adequate — to assist them in taking their own original photographs.*

*In the course, each of the students investigated autobiographical elements, both past and present, which have had the greatest effect on their sense of culture and of self. In some cases, the students wrote of the past*

# *introduction*

*(grandparents, parents, etc.) and in others they wrote of the people and things that form an integral part of their present lives. The students whose works are printed here were those who participated in the summer school portion of the program. These students, all from Hispanic backgrounds, came to Lynn either from the Dominican Republic or from Puerto Rico. Many of their experiences were shared, however, by the other students who participated in the program; students who are also recent immigrants to Lynn but come from a wider variety of backgrounds — from the U.S.S.R., Greece, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, as well as from Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti.*

*It is our hope that the narratives published here will provide a model for many more students making the difficult transition to a new life in America, as they too explore the cultural elements that make them what they are. Therefore, we are extremely pleased that it has been possible for us to produce this special publication which will be used as part of a teaching packet for students participating in subsequent family histories programs.*

*Barbara McLean Ward  
Essex Institute*

*Joanne Glidden  
Lynn English High School*

# *acknowledgments*

*As with any project of this kind, there are many people who worked hard to make it a reality. We would like especially to thank Laura Blacklow and Judith Sedwick for their contribution to the program. Their experience with this type of program, and their sensitivity to the students, made them extremely valuable to the project. Laura Blacklow also designed the book and provided advice to Barbara Ward in editing the contents. Liz Kelly did the paste up and mechanicals. Their involvement would not have been possible without funding from the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities, and the Polaroid Foundation, both of whom contributed generously to the project. Lynn Cadwallader of the MCAH, and Gail Pick of the Polaroid Foundation, were especially helpful in guiding us through the application processes. Lynn Cadwallader also provided assistance to us in developing the project and in arriving at the final form of the publication.*

*We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of individuals from the Institute and from the school system. Paula Akiba, of the Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) department of the Lynn Public Schools worked with Barbara Ward, Director of Interpretation and Publications, and Donald Daly, Coordinator of School and Family Programs, to formulate the initial project, to assist in preparing grant proposals, and to find complementary funding within the school system. She also brought Joanne Glidden into the project as the primary instructor, because of Joanne's interest in developing the English as a Second Language curriculum to include units that would help students realize their potential as cultural contributors to their new environment. Mr. John Whelan, Director of TBE, provided skilled organization by securing partial funding for the summer course from the City of Lynn Summer School. Additional funding was provided by the Northshore Employment Training Summer Youth Program. Priscilla Almeda and Paula Stiles coordinated the course's progress throughout the summer. North Shore Community College provided classroom space and facilities.*

*Richard Fyffe, Chief Librarian; Eugenia Fountain, former Reference Librarian; and Prudence Backman, former Manuscript Librarian; all provided valuable assistance in compiling and presenting historical material in the Institute's collection to the students. William Moore, Boston University Scholar at the Institute, and a graduate student in B.U.'s American and New England Studies program, brought the perspective of his background in folklore studies to the project, and assisted in the editing of the manuscript. John Roderick O'Connor and Francis Ryan contributed their extensive knowledge of Spanish to the editorial process.*

*We would also like to thank Alvin Tagney, Principal of Lynn English High School, and Anne Farnam, President of the Essex Institute, for their support of the project, both intellectually and financially, over the the last year and a half.*

*Lastly, we would like to thank just a few of those many people who provided essential technical support — Beverly, Janine, Rozz, and Joan, in the main office of Lynn English High School; Carolyn Farley and Sylvia Westcott, of the Essex Institute; Gretchen Wright of Ideas In-Print; and Bette Leistinger of Cricket Press.*



# *Susan Betancourt Cruz*



*My grandparents, from my mother's side, were Antonio Gomez Cruz and Noe Maria Lora. They were born three months apart. My grandfather was born December 20, 1903, and my grandmother was born February 29, 1904; when they died it was three months apart too.*

*When my grandparents met everybody was opposed to their marriage. He did not carry his father's last name because his father was not a man to be proud of. After my great-grandmother got pregnant he abandoned her. He was a businessman and didn't want a wife with a kid.*



*My grandparents got married in 1923. They had seven children. The oldest was Angel Cruz Lora, the second was Rafael, then Domingo, then Dario, and the youngest of the boys was Nestor. My mother was born after three other girls who died. My grandmother had her when she was 42 years old and my Aunt Gladys when she was 44 years old.*



*Iris Altagracia Cruz Lora, my mother, was the sixth child in her family. She was the first baby girl to survive a disease that kept the other girls from growing any older than two years. My grandfather took her when she was first born to a place called "higuey" in the province of Altagracia and prayed and sweared to the virgin that he would never cut my mother's hair so that she would live. After that she had a sister too. Since my mother and my aunt were*

*the only two girls they were very spoiled. They were not able to do any jobs around the house. Nobody would ever ask them to do anything and they would have special meals at special hours. My mother was allergic to everything and anything and she could not come into the kitchen because the smell would make her throw up.*



*My mother met my father, José Calixto Betancourt Feliciano when she was fifteen years old. She was walking down the street from a market that was on the corner almost across from her house and because she never lifted up her head when she walked she tripped into my father. He asked her her name but she said that she couldn't talk to anyone in the*

*street, and that if he wanted to talk to her he would have to go to her house. My father thought that she was being polite. After a few days he went to her house because he found everything so silly and he wondered what was behind such a girl.*

*They fell very much in love. He used to write letters to her and dedicated a few serenades in her honor. My father is a very romantic person and he writes poems and songs, and he is always letting my mother know how much he cares.*





*They got married on October 25, 1963, in the same year my father got his bachelor's degree. They were getting married on a Friday and the Thursday before the wedding nobody knew about it. When my father went to ask for her hand in marriage her father and mother did not agree because they told him that she could not keep a house neat and that she couldn't even cook or iron a shirt.*

*After the wedding a whole month went by and my mother wanted to go back home but her parents convinced her that it would never work if she did not try to make an effort. She would have to learn to do her best and so my father taught her how to*

*make coffee and a few other things.*

*Three years went by and my mother first got pregnant in the middle of the Dominican Revolution with the Americans and that's why my father's father applied for his residency card and got it from the consulate.*

*When she was three months pregnant her father got shot in the back in the middle of the street and was killed. He died on June 15, 1965. His wife died three months later of liver cancer and she told my mother the exact date and time that she would die. It was September 27, 1965, at 12:00 noon. As soon as my grandfather was dead she started telling everyone in the house that she was going to die too, and that they were not to cry because that would make the heart painless.*

*The only pain that she died with was that she did not get to see her grandchild from her first daughter. She used to say: "Children from my daughters, grandchildren to be, children from my sons, grandchildren might be."*

*My mother had her first baby, my sister Noemi Altagracia Betancourt Cruz, on January 10, 1966; later on she had two boys: Carlos Ronny who was born on December 12, 1967, and Miguel Antonio, born on June 15, 1969. They were born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.*

*When my brother Miguel was born he got very sick and my mother did not have any funds in the Dominican Republic to cure him with. She came*

*to the United States with the three children over to my father who was already here and had a market in Brooklyn, New York, called Cibao Super Market. They closed it down after six months because of the robberies and attacks that they used to have at the store. They came to Peabody, Massachusetts, in February 1970 to live with my father's parents and tried to start a civilized life after all the pressures they went through.*



*By the end of the winter of 1972 my mother got pregnant with me and she thought it was going to be a baby boy, but my sister was sure that it was going to be a baby girl. When they went to the stores to buy the stuff for the baby, my sister went to the girl's side and my mother to the boy's side but she didn't know what my sister was doing. When they went up to the*

*register my sister convinced my mother to buy everything yellow or pink because she was so sure that she could kill her if it was the opposite. And it was a baby girl.*

*I, Susan Rose Betancourt Cruz, was born on Saturday, December 9, 1972, at 12:36 p. m. in Salem, Massachusetts, at the North Shore Children's Hospital. I weighed seven-and-a-half pounds. I was baptized when I was two months old and I took a long time to start walking because I was so fat that I couldn't balance my body. My mother used to save all the empty milk cans for us so that she could take pictures of us in front of them to show how much milk we drank. Since I was small they all tried to make things easier for me. I was the youngest in the family.*



*When I was nine months old we went back to live in the Dominican Republic in the province of Romana in 1973. We did not last long there.*

*About four months later we went to live in the city of Santo Domingo, in a place called Herrara. We stayed until 1974 when we moved to my favorite*

*house in a place called San Geronimo.*

*I was two years old by the time we moved there. We spent 10 years living in that house. I used to, and still do, love that house.*

*When I was in pre-kindergarten I went to a private school called "Colegio San Geronimo" and when I finished that year I went to a different school called "Centro Educativo Los Prados," where I was able to accomplish kindergarten and first grade in one year because my mother used to teach me a lot of stuff which brought me up to that level.*

*As I went to second grade I graduated from knowing how to read and write, "Ya se leer." Since third grade I started to have English classes in mornings at school and in afternoons also later on. I stayed in that school until I finished seventh grade. After that we came to the United States.*

*My mother, sister, and youngest brother came first on June 4, 1985. Then my father, oldest brother, and I came three months later on August 23, 1985. It was a big change for me because I was only 12-and-a-half years old. I was in the time that kids grow and show their feelings and the way they really are. And I was confused. I did not know who to trust or who to talk to but my sister, and I didn't even trust her.*

*I went to Eastern Jr. High School for my eighth year in school. There I met a lot of people, not friends which was what I was really looking for.*

*The people that I met weren't good company at all. They tried to get me in trouble at all times and blamed things on me. I was afraid so I never talked. After a half year went by I started to understand how everything worked out and managed to go through the rest of the year without problems.*



*In September 1986 I started ninth grade at the Lynn Vocational and Technical Institute. I went through a couple of shops just to have an idea what they were all about. In my sophomore year I started my first classes in machine drafting. Now I'm going into my second year in that shop and I'm very interested in finishing high school and to go forward in my studies. I want to be a fine architect.*

# Ruth Díaz Bethania Rodriguez



This is our maternal grandmother, Luba Beato, from the Dominican Republic. She was raised in San Pedro de Macoris.

She first moved from the Dominican Republic to New York to be with our Aunt Carmen in 1977. Luba moved to the United States because it was better living. She moved to Essex County a year later in order to be near to family members already here.

All of Luba's children and grandchildren call her "Mama." Mama met my grandfather "Abuelito," shopping in San Pedro. They started seeing each other at her house. They got married without her parents' permission. Her parents did not like him because they thought that they were too young to get married. Then my grandmother got pregnant and she had a girl that died, then she had 13 more children.

My grandmother's mother was born in 1879. Her name was Natividad Peña. Her husband's name was Eliseo Gil. He was born in 1844. They were married and had 22 kids, and there were three pairs of twins. Natividad Peña died at the age of 103. Eliseo Gil died at the age of 115.



This is our aunt, Erudy Gonzalez. She was also raised in Santiago in the Dominican Republic. She came to Lynn about 14 years ago when she was 13 years old. So now she is 27 years old.

Erudy was the third family member to come to the United States after her older sister Carmen and her mother Luba. She worked in the shoe factory in Lynn for several years. She saved all of her money in order to bring the rest of her brothers and sisters. Over the years, working in Lynn, she managed to save enough to bring 11 other family members here.

Erudy got married to Eugenio

Gonzalez in 1979. They had met when they were small because they used to live next door to each other in the Dominican Republic. After Erudy had been in the United States for awhile she went to the Dominican Republic to visit. She met Eugenio again and they spent a lot of time together. After six months they were married in the Pentecostal Church in the provincial capital. Then she brought him from the Dominican Republic to the United States. About five years later they had their first child which was a boy and they named him Obil. Obil is five years old. Erudy is now pregnant again and due on September 18, 1988. She is very happy to be having another baby. She went to the doctor's and found out she was having a baby girl.



This is my family, Hípolito, Betuel, and Escolastica Rodriguez. My mother is the twelfth of all Luba's kids. Hípolito and Escolastica met in church. A friend of my mother's introduced them to each other. They fell in love and got married in 1973. They had two children, me, Bethania, 14; and my brother, Betuel, 10. All the grandchildren of Luba are named after people in the Bible.

Bethany was a city in Israel where Jesus made a lot of miracles. Betuel was the nephew of Abraham, the father of faith. Hípolito and Escolastica met in the Church of God Pentecostal in the Dominican Republic.

Both had converted from the Catholic Church to the Pentecostal Church because they considered that this was the right religion.

The other family members converted to the Pentecostal Church for the same reason. They joined the Pentecostal Church about twenty years ago. But now a lot have left the religion because they did not like following the rules in the Bible.

The rest of the family feels sad to see them leave the church because they say they have left the right path.



*This is my cousin Bethania Rodriguez. She was part of this writing course for the first five-and-a-half weeks. She wrote a lot about our family in this book. She didn't finish her story because she had to move to Houston, Texas. Her family made the decision to move very quickly. It came as a big surprise to everyone when she told us that she was moving. There her mother hopes to find a better living. Bethania and her little brother Betuel were very happy to be moving to Texas. They all got there well. When they got there they called my house from Texas to let us know how they loved it there so far. I am glad that Bethania likes it but we miss her here.*



*In this picture you see my mother, stepfather, brother, and uncle. My mother is going on her second honeymoon to Puerto Rico in May of 1986. She took my brother and left us, the girls, with my grandmother. In this picture my uncle Rafael Beato took them to the airport. They took this honeymoon in May because they happened to win the lottery then. They won \$3,000. They were planning on going in December but they took the chance while they had the money.*



*This is my mother, Vilma Beato. She is from the Dominican Republic. She was raised in Santiago. She became Mrs. Diaz when she married Ulysses Diaz. They had their first child in 1969. Her name is Carmen Diaz. Then they had two kids, Ruth Diaz and Ismael Diaz. They got divorced in 1979. She remarried Alejo Mora in 1980. They had one child, Merari Mora. They got divorced and she lives by herself. Now she goes out with her fiancé, Felix Ortiz.*

*In the Dominican Republic the majority of people are of the Catholic religion. However, many Dominicans have converted to the Pentecostal Church. They feel that in the Pentecostal Church they are more fulfilled. I was never a Catholic but many members of the Pentecostal Church practiced Catholicism. In the Catholic Church it is required that when a*

*baby is born he has to be baptized. In the Pentecostal Church you are baptized when you are 13 or older. In the Catholic Church when you have a problem you confess yourself to a priest. In the Pentecostal Church you only confess yourself to the Lord. In the Catholic Church people worship icons. In the Pentecostal Church you do not worship icons because we go by the ten commandments and one of the commandments is that you will not worship any other god but your Lord. We go to the Pentecostal Church four times a week for two hours. In the Pentecostal Church you have a certain way of dressing. You can't put pants on, you can't color your face or your nails because in the Pentecostal Church you are supposed to stay pure like you are. You can't put a bathing suit on etc. In the Catholic Church they have the Pope as their leader. In the Pentecostal Church we have no one. Instead, each church has a pastor.*

*I think many people leave the Catholic Church because they don't feel anything. The Catholic Church perhaps did not make them feel close to God. The Pentecostal religion follows the Bible very strictly and through the Bible brings people closer to God.*

*The Pentecostal Church was founded in Antioquia which is in Asia. The apostles themselves were the founders of the Pentecostal Church.*

# Rosaura García



This is my grandmother, Altagracia Quesado when she was young in Santo Domingo. My grandmother liked to be photographed every few years by a professional photographer. She also would send other members of the family to be photographed. Keeping her photos and giving reprints of them to her children and grandchildren seemed very important to her.



This is a picture of my mother on her seventeenth birthday with her first son in Santo Domingo. The baby was only one month old. He is my bigger brother. She went to a studio to take this picture because it was very important for her that this picture came out right.



This is my grandmother and my older brother when he was three years old in Santo Domingo.

My grandmother was about 43 years old when she first came to the United States. She came all alone the first time to see what life was like here. After her visit she decided that her family would be better off in the United States.



*This is me when I was six years old in Boca Chica in the Dominican Republic. That day I was wearing my new bikini.*



*This is me in El Malecon in Santo Domingo when I was nine years old. This picture was taken like at 12:30 in the night so that's why I look like I was drunk. (I was very sleepy.) There was a big festival there that day. You can see that I was wearing a hat that says, "Welcome to the Festival in El Malecon." That was a very fun day for me.*



*Here you can see my mother María in her house in Lawrence, Massachusetts, in July of 1988. She is 34 years old and she lives with my two brothers. She studies English in the morning.*

*She lives with José, my biggest brother, and Eloycito, the one after me. Eloycito goes to school.*



*José is in the twelfth grade and goes to school and sometimes to work. In the photo you can see him sitting on a heater with a disc in his hand. He loves music. The thing he does most all day is listen to music and records. What my other brother, Eloycito, does almost all day is play with racing cars and ride bikes.*



*Eloycito is just my half brother because he has a different father, Eloy. He was a very strict man, I lived with him in New York City for four years. José is my brother from the two sides, father and mother. We were the first children of my mother and father. They got married when my mother was 16 and my father was 19. They were very young when they had us.*



*Now my father has two more children from another woman. One is a boy. I don't know him, but I know he is three years old and is in Santo Domingo. He has a baby girl. She is seven months old. She is Daniela. She lives with us in the house.*



*These are pictures of where I work. The lady in black is the owner and the boss. She is a wonderful person, or I could say a special person. The man next to her is her husband, the other boss. He is another special person. The guy next to him is Jim, a worker. He is a nice person. He is always complaining about everything, so we always pick on him. The other one is Kathy. She is the one that trained me the most. She is very nice too and she is a good teacher. I learn very fast from her. They even show me how to fold faster. I do what you could call laundry. We wash, dry, and fold. I am a cashier there too.*

# Ramón Marte



*These are a few things that we make in the Dominican Republic. In the Dominican Republic the people do things to sell in the streets, in the stores, and at the house. They make macramés and ceramic figures. Also they make food, and work at jobs like carpenter, architect, or cleaning shoes along the street.*

*My mother did some of these things. She made the macramés. She has a lot of things from the Dominican Republic: figures and other things.*

*She has my little dress that I used when I was younger. It was made in Santo Domingo. She bought it for me when I was around one year old. Now I have it at home and I told my mother that I'm going to use it for my first child and she said "That's good, because you will have memories from when you were young."*



*This is me when I was around 10 months old. This picture was taken in the Dominican Republic for my grandparents.*

*This picture was mailed to my grandparents by my parents, so they could see their first grandson in the whole family. I'm the oldest grandson*

*in my father's family, but in my mother's family I'm the third one.*

*When I was born my parents decided to call me after my father because it is a custom in our country to call the first child after his father or her mother. A boy takes the name of the father. A girl takes the name of the mother.*



This is my mother María. In this picture you can see her beside a painting of Trujillo at his old house in the Dominican Republic. Trujillo was a dictator of Santo Domingo. He was the worst dictator of Santo Domingo. Also in this picture you can see his hats, his clothes, and some of his other things.

My mother went to this house, which is now a museum of all the country of the Dominican Republic, on her vacation.

My mother told me that Trujillo killed many people during his dicta-

torship. He abused all of the people in the whole country and he stole many things, like money, property, farms, and a lot of other things. Most of the family came from the Dominican Republic, but seven of my cousins are from Puerto Rico. When I was three years old I went to live with them in Puerto Rico. I lived with them until I was 15 years old. So, I lived in Puerto Rico for about 12 years. While we lived in Puerto Rico we would visit the family in the Dominican Republic every year. We usually spent one month with them and celebrated the

Christmas holidays, New Year's, and Dia de Reyes on January 6.

When we lived in Puerto Rico, the whole family would get together to celebrate Christmas, Thanksgiving, and birthdays. All Sundays we always went to the church together. Then some Sundays, or on special days, my grandmother would make a big dinner.

My grandfather's mother says that she wants to see me married and also she wants to see my first baby. I guess she's 98 years old now and I don't even know her, but she knows me. We call her Antigua, but I think it isn't her real name. My grandfather is around 54 years old and my grandmother (his wife) is around 52. They had 12 children but five of them died when they were young or when they were born. The other seven grew up and are now married. Some of them have children.

The oldest son is my father. He is 38 years old and now he lives with his brother in New York. His name is Ramón E. Marte Pecaltao. He doesn't live with us because he and my mother are divorced. The next son is my Uncle Alfonso. He lives with his wife and three daughters, and also with my father. The third child is my Aunt Elena. She lives in Puerto Rico with her husband and her three sons. She is a teacher and she just teaches blind children and children that can't talk or hear. Her husband is a mechanical engineer. The fourth child is my Uncle Leo. He works in a

restaurant in Puerto Rico and lives with his wife and his three sons. The fifth child is my Aunt María. She is studying at the University Sagrado Corazón. She's studying computers and I think she is working right now. She lives with her husband and they don't have children yet. The sixth child is my Aunt Flerida. She's a nurse in Puerto Rico where she lives with her husband. The seventh child is my Aunt Fleridín. She is the youngest in the family. She also lives in Puerto Rico with her husband and her little daughter. She was adopted by my grandmother around five years ago. The others died when they were born.



These floral arrangements were made by my mother, María M. Marte, and by my younger sister Neyssa in Lynn. When we got here my mother bought the material and with a little imagination she created these beautiful floral arrangements.

To make the floral arrangements she uses silk flowers of various colors. This craft is something that she learned when my family lived in Puerto Rico. We lived there for twelve years, from the time I was two years old until I was 13.

# *Edwin Marte*



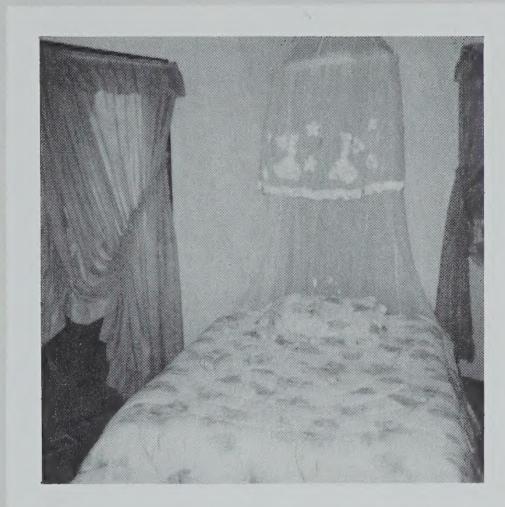
The birds of love are a symbol of love, or, sometimes, of peace. Many things can be said through the symbolism of birds, things such as expressions of love, peace, war and bravery, even history. The eagle has been chosen by many countries as a national symbol.

These birds are from Puerto Rico. They were made by hand, and special machinery was used to work the detail of the border. My mother, María M. Marte, bought this ceramic couple from a friend in Puerto Rico who made them.

Las palomas del amor son un símbolo de amor a veces de paz. Muchas cosas son dichas con aves

*cosas como expresiones, expresiones  
como el amor, la paz, la guerra y  
hasta historia.*

*Estas palomas son de Puerto Rico.  
Son hechas a mano y máquinas,  
especiales para los bordes. Mi mamá,  
María M. Marte, compró estas palo-  
mas de una amiga quien las hacía.*



*This hand-made mosquito net was  
brought to Lynn by María M. Marte  
from Santo Domingo. It was given to  
her by her sister Gladyz who comes  
from a small town called Simón  
Bolívar.*

*Mosquito nets are used both in the  
cities and in the countryside to pro-  
tect the sleeper from all types of night  
insects. The mosquito net is made of  
nylon with silk decoration.*

*María continues to use the mos-  
quito net in Lynn even though there  
are not as many insects. She says she  
enjoys sleeping under it because it  
reminds her of her great-grandfather.  
Her great-grandfather gave a mos-  
quito net just like this one to my  
mother when she was very young.*



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